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UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

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GENERAL

A/AC.154/293
16 September 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH
THE HOST COUNTRY

LETTER DATED 13 SEPTEMBER 1996 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH THE HOST COUNTRY ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE

Enclosed please find the text of a note verbale dated 8 August 1996 from the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations, responding to the latter's note verbale dated 8 June 1996 (A/AC.154/290, annex), concerning the results of consultations with the City of New York regarding the placement of a street sign.

I kindly request that the text of the present letter and its annex be circulated as an official document of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

(Signed) Victor MARRERO

96-24193 (E) 170996

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ANNEX

Note verbale dated 8 August 1996 from the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations

The United States Mission to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations and wishes to respond to the latter's note No. NV.473, dated 8 June 1996, concerning the placement by authorities of the City of New York of a street name sign entitled "Brothers to the Rescue Corner" at the north-east corner of East 38th Street and Lexington Avenue, which is within the security perimeter of the Cuban Mission.

At the meetings of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country held on 14 May and 18 June 1996, the representative of the United States informed the members of the Committee that the placement of street signs was entirely a municipal function in which host country officials have no involvement, but that the host country none the less would undertake detailed consultations with the authorities of the City of New York in that regard. Following those consultations the sign in question was removed from its original location and relocated to another corner of the intersection that is outside the security zone of the Cuban Mission.

It is the view of the United States Mission that the relocation of the original street name sign reasonably responds to legitimate safety and security concerns expressed by the Mission of Cuba, and that other questions raised must yield to equally legitimate constitutional free speech issues presented by the placement of the street sign(s) at suitable locations.

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COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH
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LETTER DATED 5 SEPTEMBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH THE HOST COUNTRY

I have the honour of addressing you to request that the enclosed text of the note verbale dated 1 September 1996 sent by the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations to the United States Mission to the United Nations, in regard to the denial of admission into the territory of the United States, through Dorval International Airport in Montreal on 1 September 1996, of Mr. Pedro Luis Pedroso Cuesta, Second Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations, be circulated as an official document of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

(Signed) Bruno RODRÍGUEZ PARRILLA

ANNEX

Note verbale dated 1 September 1996 from the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the United States Mission to the United Nations

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United States Mission to the United Nations and wishes to inform it of the following:

Today, 1 September 1996, Mr. Pedro Luis Pedroso Cuesta, Second Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations, was not allowed to continue his trip from Havana to New York, via Montreal, Canada, by the United States immigration authorities at Dorval Airport, Montreal.

Minutes before boarding flight AC 750, scheduled to depart at 6.25 p.m., the United States Immigration authorities detained Mr. Pedroso Cuesta, together with another Cuban diplomat from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba, Mrs. Anayansi Rodríguez Camejo, and required them to remain in place without giving any explanation. For an hour, in the presence of the two Cuban diplomats, a United States Immigration Service officer made several telephone calls and talked to the supervising Immigration Inspector. At about 6 p.m., the supervising Inspector informed Mrs. Rodríguez Camejo the she would be allowed to board and told Mr. Pedroso Cuesta that he could not continue his trip because the United States Department of State had decided that it was necessary to make some inquiries about his visa and its validity and in regard to the authorization which he had received to enter United States territory.

In addition, the same supervising Immigration Inspector, who stated that her name was Mrs. Angela Coronado, explained to Mr. Pedroso Cuesta that the United States Department of State instruction was accompanied by the advice that Mr. Pedroso should contact the United States Consulate in Montreal on 3 September.

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations states its objection to this incident, which absolutely disregards the fact that Mr. Pedro Luis Pedroso Cuesta holds a diplomatic passport (No. 24867), bears a multiple-entry United States visa, which is valid until 21 May 1997, and in addition, owing to his status, must return to his duties as Second Secretary of the Cuban Mission. Likewise, Mr. Pedroso Cuesta holds a Canadian transit visa, valid only until 1 September 1996. Thus, requiring him to remain on Canadian territory and present himself at the United States Consulate in Montreal is an unfeasible demand which gives rise to additional difficulties.

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations states its objection to this incident and requests of the United States Mission to the United Nations that it be promptly clarified.

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COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH
THE HOST COUNTRY

LETTER DATED 17 SEPTEMBER 1996 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH THE HOST COUNTRY ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE

Enclosed please find the text of a note verbale dated 3 September 1996 from the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations, responding to the latter's note verbale dated 1 September 1996 (A/AC.154/294, annex), regarding the necessary steps the United States Mission took to ensure Mr. Pedro Luis Pedroso Cuesta's admission into the United States through Dorval International Airport in Montreal.

I kindly request that the text of the present letter and its annex be circulated as an official document of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

(Signed) Victor MARRERO

96-24480 (E) 180996

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Note verbale dated 3 September 1996 from the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations

The United States Mission to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations and refers to the latter's Note no. NV-671-A of 1 September 1996 regarding a delay in admitting Second Secretary Pedro Luis Pedroso Cuesta into the United States on that date.

After learning of the incident, the United States Mission took the necessary action with the appropriate authorities to ensure Mr. Pedroso's admission through Dorval International Airport in Montreal on the morning of the next business day, 3 September 1996. The Permanent Mission of Cuba was informed by telephone at that time that Mr. Pedroso should proceed to the immigration authorities at Dorval Airport at the earliest possible opportunity.

The United States Mission is well aware of the diplomatic status of Second Secretary Pedroso Cuesta and of its obligations as host country to the United Nations. It is in that light that the United States Mission was pleased to have been able to take the necessary steps to ensure the Second Secretary's admission into the United States once it learned of the delay.